

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1 and 12-15, and add new claim 16 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A storage system comprising:
a channel unit that transfers data sent from an upper-level system and transfers data to said upper-level system;
a plurality of cache units which are ~~connected~~ coupled to said channel unit and in which data sent from said channel unit is stored;
a control unit that is ~~connected~~ coupled to said plurality of cache units, and transfers or receives data to or from said plurality of cache units;
a disk device in which data sent from said control unit is stored; ~~and~~
~~a plurality of paths connecting said control unit to said plurality of cache units;~~
one or more first path coupling said channel unit to a first cache unit of said plurality of cache units;
one or more second path coupling said channel unit to a second cache unit of said plurality of cache units and not being in common with said first path;
one or more third path coupling said control unit to said first cache unit; and
one or more fourth path coupling said control unit to said second cache unit and not being in common with said third path.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path and said second path are independent of each other.
4. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path is dedicated to communication between said first cache unit and said control unit.
5. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 4, wherein said second path is dedicated to communication between said second cache unit and said control unit.
6. (Canceled)
7. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path directly links said first cache unit to said control unit.

8. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 7, wherein said second path directly links said second cache unit to said control unit.
9. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 2, wherein said first path links said first cache unit to said control unit on a point-to-point basis.
10. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 9, wherein said second path links said second cache unit to said control unit on a point-to-point basis.
11. (Original) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said disk device includes a plurality of disk drives, and said control unit is coupled to said plurality of disk drives.
12. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ third and fourth paths are signal lines linking said control unit and said plurality of cache units.
13. (Currently Amended I) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ third and fourth paths are used to read data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said disk device, and are used to communicate data, of which reading is requested by said upper-level system, from said control unit to one of said plurality of cache units.
14. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of~~ third and fourth paths are used to write data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from one of said plurality of cache units to said disk device, and are used to communicate data, of which writing is requested by said upper-level system, from one of said plurality of cache units to said control unit.
15. (Currently Amended) A storage system according to Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of paths~~ third and fourth paths includes a number of paths equal to a number of cache units included in said plurality of cache units.
16. (New) A storage system comprising:

a channel unit that transfers data sent from an upper-level system and transfers data to said upper-level system;

a plurality of cache units which are coupled to said channel unit and in which data sent from said channel unit is stored;

a control unit that is coupled to said plurality of cache units, and transfers or receives data to or from said plurality of cache units;

a disk device in which data sent from said control unit is stored;

one or more first path coupling said channel unit to a first cache unit of said plurality of cache units;

one or more second path coupling said channel unit to a second cache unit of said plurality of cache units and not being in common with said first path;

one or more third path coupling said control unit to said first cache unit; and

one or more fourth path coupling said control unit to said second cache unit and not being a same path as said third path.